

Within Our Reach:
A Community Partnership to End Homelessness

Working Group Notes
February 22, 2006 Meeting
3-5 PM Miller Family Health Center

Kevin Cwayna, Co-Chair of the working group, made opening remarks. These meetings are scheduled as monthly meetings, and to meet as needed. Focus of this meeting is to introduce subcommittees and get input as well as go over the draft for the mission statement.

Anita Gibbons of Continuum of Care focused on finding missing pieces/gaps of services provided to homeless:

- Gaps include street outreach and qualification gaps. If an individual did not fit within specific criteria, then it was very hard to find services and shelter (many shelters are only for people with drug and alcohol addictions in recovery, etc).
- The second gap that was found is that transitions are very rough. It is recommended to increase education and make more coordinated efforts to improve transitions.
- Another gap is youth, particularly emancipated youth. Within that gap is a lack of understanding, overall, of this population as far as what their needs may be etc.

Corinne Schneider asks for Police Department input; they are the frontline. How does the PD feel that they fit into outreach?

South Division Sergeant Ted Reno stated "we are the bad guys" we are picked on for whatever response is given. We get a complaint about an encampment and it's posted and the city comes out, the timing of this is variable and the community is not generally happy with it.

Schneider asked if this is a gap in outreach.

Sergeant Reno stated yes, that officers need to be able to solve the problem "then and now" and often in off-hours. None of the resources are available to us that would be useful and the capabilities and services that are available are, at best, limited. Suggested a MET team / PD outreach, or something more specific, that would be linked to outreach. There is no outreach available 24 hours a day. A homeless response team is needed. Another issue is that the PD's task is to tell homeless what to do and when to do it. It would be beneficial for the PD and the Health Department to work together and coordinate some efforts to identify and regulate the homeless and recommend outreach.

Schneider suggested an (800) phone line for softer response from outreach.

Joe Colletti: The City should look at models that other jurisdictions use such as the "Hope Team" in Pasadena. PD and Mental Health officers work together. It has been so successful that there are now three teams (started with one). This arrangement brings service providers directly to the situation. This is a possible model that Long Beach could work with.

Anita: Add to recommendations to review existing models. Drop-in access centers would be beneficial.

Joe Colletti: Look at Santa Monica's models for recommendations.

Jack Smith: Another gap is storage, where can homeless store their belongings? Jack cited the last council meeting where many homeless spoke, explaining that bags were piled up outside of the doors to Council.

Emergency Shelters: In LB there are 382 beds for E.S. Permanent housing, this is year round. Many are very specific to the sober living population, and this creates a gap for those that are not sober or have other issues not having to do with drugs/alcohol.

Another gap is the coordination between organizations to fill empty beds on a nightly basis. David recommends that the sharing of crews and directors might be beneficial as well.

Dan Rosenthal: Aren't more beds a priority over coordination?

Please e-mail Anita Gibbins (agibbins@lbcc.edu) or Leslie Neusteter (Lezlie_Neusteter@longbeach.gov) with any suggests that would contribute to the chart, and they can email back the final chart.

Joe Colletti: Idea of having an equation $\text{bed} + \text{space} = \text{vacancy filled}$. Case managers are missing out of the equation. Thus raising the issue that case managers need to be informed on a regular basis.

Jack Smith: the goal is to eliminate this step completely.

Vision and mission statement review:

Cover sheet of the plan, a summary of content. Kevin Cwayna reads the mission statement. Jack warns that "bomb" words should be avoided; words that will cause Council to not entertain the vision statement, such as "affordable housing" etc.

Dave Rosenthal: Measurement of goals might also include performance indicators – a mechanism for reporting progress.

David: would it be helpful to define housing (sq. foot per person?)

Dora Jacildo (Children Today): Calling it permanent housing and clarifying transition/permanent housing would be good.

Jack Smith: "No" to Dave – different cultures define housing differently.

Ken Mason: Vision statement – access to criminal population? Population that refuses services?

Corrine Schneider: Ability to provide choices before law enforcement takes over.

Of guidelines and working principals:
Transparent?

Self-sustaining? What does this mean about government help? What about sustainable instead of self-sustaining?

Joe Colletti: familial status should be included in working principals. Legal status? Income levels rather than resource level.

There was much debate over language; an updated vision statement is available on the City website.

Letters of support should be submitted so that Council sees that there is community support.

Ken Mason: Accountability vs. Broad support of the plan are two different things and should be distinguished from one another.

Jack Smith: Solicit importance/ broad support of plan. Core values and no more "bomb words" Support from businesses, need a word that would include schools or perhaps an extra section.

Identify stakeholders and enumerate them.

Subcommittee meetings:

Open to the public. Please see the City website for subcommittees.

Note on announcements for meeting, the location has been changed. The next meeting will be at the Health Department at 2525 Grand in room 204. Cristi Jocoy from Cal State Long Beach mentioned that the cost of not doing anything exceeding cost of addressing the problem would appeal to businesses and other stakeholders in the community.